

CLAYMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

**3303 Green Street
Claymont, Delaware 19703
(302) 798-4164**

In 1929, Mrs. Ethel A. Carty Woman's Club of Claymont began the first library in Claymont's Stone Schoolhouse with approximately 600 donated books. By 1945, the library officially became the Claymont Public Library.

Initially, volunteers staffed the Claymont Public Library, until 1975, when the New Castle County Department of Libraries assumed responsibility for the library and a professional staff was hired. But, it was not until 1988 that the Library was moved from the Stone School to the Claymont Community Center.

In May 1997, a tragic arson fire destroyed 32,000 books, almost the entire collection, just as the library was about to relocate. Later that same year, the Claymont Public Library reopened in its present, larger, 65,000 square foot facility in the southeast corner of the Claymont Community Center. After the fire, the Claymont community came forward and overwhelmed the library staff with their generosity, donating books from their own shelves. Many in Claymont refer to the library as the Phoenix Project, because out of the ashes of the old library has risen a new, expanded library — one that exists because of the goodwill, support, and dedication of the surrounding community.

Most recently, the Claymont Public Library was joined with the Concord Pike Library under one library manager.

Key Individuals

Mrs. Ethel A. Carty and other members of the Woman's Club of Claymont originally donated the books in 1929 that gave the Claymont Public Library its start.

Jeremiah Greene served as the first New Castle County appointed librarian.